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A115WX (CIA VIET)
V(340) CIA-VIET NAM
BY THE ASSOCIA

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BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, AUG. 24 (AP)-VOICING "SERIOUS DOUBT THAT VICTORY CAN BE WON" IN SOUTH VIET NAM, A CIA OFFICER SAYS THAT WITH CONTINUED U.S. AID "AT LEAST A PROLONGED STALEMATE CAN BE ATTAINED."

"THERE IS ALSO A CHANCE THAT POLITICAL EVOLUTION WITHIN THE COUNTRY AND DEVELOPMENTS UPON THE WORLD SCENE COULD LEAD TO SOME KIND OF NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT BASED UPON NEUTRALIZATION," WILLARD MATTHIAS WROTE IN A JUNE REPORT ON WORLD TRENDS.

ADMINISTRATION SOURCES MADE HIS STUDY AVAILABLE TO NEWSMEN, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THE FINDINGS HE REPORTED DO NOT REPRESENT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT VIEW.

THESE SOURCES SAID THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS FULLY COMMITTED TO STEMMING THE VIET CONG INSURGENTS AND BELIEVE THIS WILL BE DONE, ALTHOUGH THEY CONCEDED THE CAMPAIGN MAY BE LONG AND ARDUOUS.

THEY SAID ALSO THAT THE UNITED STATES SEES NO GROUNDS FOR NEGOTIATION WITH THE COMMUNISTS ON SOUTH VIET NAM AT THIS TIME. THEY CONTENT IT IS UP TO THE COMMUNISTS TO QUIT VIOLATING ACCORDS ALREADY REACHED AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCES 10 YEARS AGO.

MATTHIAS IS A MEMBER OF THE CIA'S 12-MEMBER BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES. THE BOARD CHAIRMAN, SHERMAN KENT, SAID THE DOCUMENT "HAS GENERAL BOARD APPROVAL, THOUGH NO ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO REACH GENERAL AGREEMENT ON EVERY POINT OF IT."

ADMINISTRATION SOURCES SAID THE BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHERS HAVE WRITTEN NUMEROUS PAPERS WHICH ARE VALUABLE FOR CIRCULATING IDEAS BUT WHICH DO NOT REPRESENT OFFICIAL POLICY. THEY SAID MATTHIAS' PAPER HAD BEEN CIRCULATED AMONG LOWER-RANKING OFFICIALS, BUT WAS NEVER GIVEN TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL.

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"THE GUERRILLA WAR IN SOUTH VIET NAM IS IN ITS FIFTH YEAR AND NO END APPEARS IN SIGHT," MATTHIAS WROTE. "THE VIET CONG IN THE SOUTH . . . ARE PRESSING THEIR OFFENSIVE MORE VIGOROUSLY THAN EVER.

MATTHIAS SAID EFFECTIVE PROSECUTION OF THE WAR WAS HINDERED BY WHAT HE CALLED POLITICAL MISTAKES OF THE REGIME OF ASSASSINATED PREMIER NGO DINH DIEM, AND ADDED THAT "DIEM'S SUCCESSORS HAVE NOT YET DEMONSTRATED THE LEADERSHIP AND THE INSPIRATION NECESSARY" TO MOUNT A SUCCESSFUL COUNTER-GUERRILLA EFFORT.

"THERE REMAINS SERIOUS DOUBT THAT VICTORY CAN BE WON," HE SAID, "AND THE SITUATION REMAINS VERY FRAGILE. IF LARGE-SCALE U.S. SUPPORT CONTINUES AND IF FURTHER POLITICAL DETERIORATION WITHIN SOUTH VIET NAM IS PREVENTED, AT LEAST A PROLONGED STALEMATE CAN BE ATTAINED."

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